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Pirates Squeeze Extra-Inning 5-4 Win Over No. 21 Crusaders

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BASEBALL

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Pirates Squeeze Extra-Inning 5-4 Win Over No. 21 Crusaders

ARMSTRONG

BELMONT ABBEY

| 5 | Final (10) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | R | H | E | 4 |
|---|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|
| | ARMSTRONG (19-9) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 0 | |
| | BELMONT ABBEY (22-8) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 0 | |





Posted: Apr 02, 2013

BELMONT, N.C. - The Armstrong Atlantic State University baseball squad clipped No. 21 Belmont Abbey, 5-4, in 10 innings on senior **Chris Fritts'** safety squeeze bunt, giving the Pirates a non-conference win over the Crusaders on Tuesday afternoon in Belmont, N.C.

The Pirates (19-9) prevailed in the first meeting between the two Southeast Region schools, winning their sixth game out of their last seven contests. Belmont Abbey saw its five-game win streak come to a close, falling to 22-8-1 on the season.

Armstrong built an early lead on the Crusaders thanks to **Chase Butler's** outstanding day at the plate. A solo home run from Butler put the Pirates up, 1-0, in the fourth inning, then an RBI double from Butler in the fifth made it 2-0.

Belmont Abbey got one back in the bottom of the fifth on Emilio Pagan's RBI double, but the Pirates added a run on **R.J. Dennard's** RBI single in the seventh, then pushed another run across in the eighth on **Will Thomas'** RBI single to make the score 4-1 heading into the ninth inning.

| BATTING |
|---|
| ARMSTRONG |
| 2B: Chase Butler; Clayton Miller; Will Thomas |
| 3B: none |
| HR: Chase Butler |
| BELMONT ABBEY |
| 2B: Emilio Pagan; Anthony Dimino; Kyle Buchanan; Ryan Allen |
| 3B: none |
| HR: Matt Mazzolla |

FULL STATS

The Crusaders forced extra innings in the bottom of the ninth as Matt Mazzola launched a pinch-hit three-run home run to left center, tying the score at 4-4.

In the top of the 10th inning, the Pirates got a leadoff double from Clayton Miller and a single from Richie Anderson that put runners at the corners. Fritts then delivered the safety squeeze bunt to first base, driving in Miller with the go-ahead run.

Butler (1-1) gave up a leadoff single in the top of the 10th but retired the next three batters in order to secure the win for the Pirates. In addition to going 3-for-4 at the plate with two RBIs, Butler notched his first win of the season in relief with two innings of two-hit, one-run ball, striking out three.

Miller went 3-for-5 as well for the Pirates, while Thomas and Dennard each collected two hits.

Pagan (1-2) took the loss for the Crusaders in relief, giving up two hits and one run without recording an out in the 10th inning.

Armstrong returns to action on Saturday, April 6, hosting Flagler in a Peach Belt Conference doubleheader beginning at Noon at Pirate Field.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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